Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
1/5/73

Mr. Murray Fisher
Assistant Managing Editor
Playboy

Dear Mr. Fisher,

If my recollection is correct, you were Playboy's assassination expert when Jim Goode introduced us in 1968.

After all its puffery of Garrison and Lane, Playboy had thendecided that unless it could solve the JFK assassination, it was finished with the subject. Regardless, Jim told me, and he thus was not interested in some of history's most sensational documentation, which I have. I mean including what had been withheld from the Warren Commission.

Because of this attitude, which was not limited to Playboy, and the general media hangup on the subject, which was justified to it by the utter irresponsibility of those who got most attention, I have continued my work in silence.

Since then we have had Watergate and other national developments that would have been impossible had it not been for the JFK assassination. (Yes, I have done original work on the Watergate where the Ervin committee is duplicating what the Warren Commission did, only smoother.)

I hope these developments may persuade Playboy to reconsider and perhaps believe that short of solving the JFK assassination, which would not be believed with notarized confession anyway, there is worthwhile material.

Unlike others popularly considered "critics" and quite opposite the popular fiction, that all officialdom considered all of us nuts and would have nothing to do with us, I have and have had worthwhile associations with "the other side." One of these was with the late Senator Richard Russell. I had a relationship that began with the agreement that for the lifetime of either it would be confidential. He did not believe three of the basic conclusions of the Report and he signed it only after a compromise with Warren, worked out at an executive session the transcript of which was memory-holed. At this secret session, Russell told me, he specified his objections and refused to sign the Report, then in page proof. He did believe there had been a conspiracy and he did not trust the federal investigative agencies. When I put in Russell's hands proof that the record he had made for history did not exist, he broke a long friendship with LBJ and resigned the ~~xxx~~ Armed Forces Committee chairmanship. He thus gave up all "oversight" responsibilities dealing with the CIA. I have a transcript stamped "Top Secret" in which he said of the CIA, "You can't believe a word they tell you."

This also is opposite the conventional belief.

Russell was in his terminal illness when we were in touch. To his dying day he regretted not being able to spend the time required in following what I had but in a series of letters he kept encouraging me to continue my work, which he well understood was directly opposed to the Report of the Commission of which he had been a member.

To satisfy Russell I obtained between 25 and 50 pages of still-secret records that eliminate any doubt about how the record he made for posterity was eliminated. They are all stamped "Top Secret."

I am going to prepare a piece for my London agent, intending it for the popular press there. However, I am also going to make it longer than a paper will use so that it can be the basis for a magazine article should there be the interest. There can be a considerable illumination with unpublished, classified documents, none stolen. Are you interested?

Before we met, if as I think we did, Goode and Eric Norden had asked me to help with a piece Norden was doing for you on The Minutemen. They later changed their minds. Because I had begun this work I continued it. I had an inside source. Ultimately, I obtained the entire Minuteman secret manual on paramilitary activities. I believe it has never been used. It makes The Anarchist's Cookbook look like a compendium of recipes for Crepes Suzette.

I have loaned most of this material to a lawyer who had immediate need for it in one of the more publicized of recent political cases.

Those fascists also had classified military handbooks, including one captured from the Viet Cong. I have copies.

I believe that one of the results of this work is the possible explanation of the bombing of the Wilkerson townhouse in Grenwich Village, if you remember that case. A number of Weatherpeople, including Louis Boudin's daughter Cathy, are still in hiding.

I have researched a book tentatively entitled The Informers and will be doing it in a collaboration with a young lawyer. He has drafted that chapter for us to use as a sample when we can do more work on this book.

If we are correct, and there is a prima facie case, then the FBI was responsible for that bombing and the consequent deaths.

To show you that the "Top Secret" stamps are quite legible, I enclose an electrostatic copy of a picture of me holding a few of these papers while standing at my Russell file. Sorry Ihave one photo only.

My mail tells me there is renewed interest in the JFK assassination. You may remember that mine was the first book, that it could not be published, and that to bring it out I had to invent the "underground" book. One of the odd results is that mine are the only critical works now available. There have been only a few days in the past 3 -4 months on which I have not received orders for them.

There is now a new generation of young people who know nothing about the JFK assassination and are interested.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg